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Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 03115 241544Z

44
ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 /027 W
---------- 105472
R 241500Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9425

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DEPT PASS OPIC FOR HENDERSON

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN, EAGR
SUBJECT: OPIC AND CAMEROON

REF: STATE 203429

1. AUG 21 IN EFFORT INFORM GURC DECISIONS CONVEYED REFTEL BEFORE THEY LEARNED ELSEWHERE, COMM ATTACHE AND CHARGE TOLD SNI DEPUTY DIRECTOR TEHETGEN AND DIRECTOR INDUSTRIES NOMO DECISIONS RICE AND MAIZE PROJECTS. COMM ATTACHE FOLLOWED UP WITH DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AUG 23. BY 23RD CHETGEN HAD RECEIVED TEELE LETTER ON RICE PROJECT OUTLINING OPIC POSITION. HOWEVER, HE MOST DISTURBED ABOU WHAT HAPPENING MAIZE PROJECT.

2. TCHETGEN SAID SNI HAS NOT RECEIVED A AND B STUDY AND AS YET HAS ONLY LIMITED INFO ON PROJECT. HE ADDED THERE NO REPEAT NO JUSTIFICATION FOR UNDERSTANDING CITED LAST PARA REFTEL. NEITHER A AND B NOR DALGETY HAS ANY BASIS FOR DISCUSSING FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT CONCERNING FUTURE OF MAIZE PROJECT. DALGETY NOT EVEN INVOLVED IN PROJECT SO FAR AS SNI IS AWARE. SNI HAS MAINTAINED FULL CONTROL OVER THIS PROJECT IN THAT IT HAS HIGH POLITICAL PRIORITY AS FIRST SNI PROJECT WEST PROVINCE. STUDY FUNDED OUT OF SNI BUDGET AND NEITHER MINAGRIC NOR PLAN INVOLVED THIS STAGE. SNI WANTS PROJECT TO BEGIN JAN 77 IF POSSIBLE. THEY REQUESTING NJAWE, CAMEROONIAN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, CONTACT OPIC FOR
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PAGE 02 YAOUND 03115 241544Z

EXPLANATION.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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3. IT DIFFICULT DETERMINE WHO IS DOING WHAT TO WOM ON
THIS PROJECT AS SNI HAS NO RPT NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ARRANGE-
MENT OTHER THAN FACT THAT THEY HAVE PAID A AND B TO DO
STUDY. SUGGEST YOU CONTACT A AND B AND ADVISE THEM PLAY
IT STRAIGHT WITH SNI AS THIS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE PROJECT.
AFTER SNI RECEIVES STUDY AND HAS TIME TO EVALUATE IT, THEN
A AND B CAN MAKE WHATEVER RECOMMENDATIONS TO SNI IT WISHES
CONCERNING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. ATTEMPT TO FARM OUT
WORK WITH DALGETY WHO, IN TCHETGEN VIEW, HAS NO ROLE AT
THIS POINT AND BEFORE SNI RECEIVES WHAT IT IS PAYING
FOR IS NOT WELL RECEIVED.

4. BOTH TCHETGEN AND NOMO, WHO BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC OPIC
AND EMBASSY ATTEMPTS PROMOTE US INVESTMENT CAMEROONS, PERPLEXED
BY OPIC AND A AND B PERFORMANCE. THEY SUSPICIOUS OPIC
DECISIONS MAY BE INFLUENCED BY SHIFT UNDERLYING ECONOMIC
THEORY FROM ACTIVE TO PASSIVE ROLE SUPPORTING POTENTIAL US
INVESTMENT ABROAD. THEY ALSO QUESTION DALGETY ROLE BOTH
PROJECTS AND SEE POSSIBILITY OLYMPIO ATTEMPTING PROTECT
HIS MIDDLEMAN POSITION BY OVER-REPRESENTING DALGETY AS
HAVING AN INSIDE TRACK. AS FAR AS SNI CONCERNED DLAGETY
HAS NO PRESENT STANDING EITHER PROJECT. EMBASSY'S LATEST
INFO IS DALGETY HAS POSSIBILITY RPT POSSIBILITY
BRITISH FINANCING, BUT NO DEFINITE COMMIMENT ON RICE
PROJECT, WHILE BRITISH CHARGE UNAWARE ANY INVOLVEMENT
DALGETY WHATSOEVER MAIZE PROJECT.
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